

THE PINE STREET TORCH

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE PINE STREET BRANCH Y. M. C. A.

VOLUME IV

ST. LOUIS, MO., MARCH 30, 1935

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**A TRAVELER'S VIEWPOINT**

The Y. M. C. A. means much to the men and boys of every group, race and nation in the world, but to the American Negro it means most.

To the Colored men and boys of America, the "Y" is their Y. M. C. A. Hotel, Chamber of Commerce, Commercial Club, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club; their City Auditorium and their Coliseum. When traveling, our Business and professional men, our clergymen, our entire group, for the most part, stop at Hotel Y. M. C. A. When approaching our large cities we inquire of the Railroad employees "just where we might reside?" And almost immediately the reply comes "Hotel Y. M. C. A." Inquire of an officer just where splendid public accommodations might be had and he too refers to Hotel Y. M. C. A.

Where do our national college fraternities and large national gatherings find convenient quarters for their sessions and meals? Almost in every case where one of these Association buildings is located—it is also in Hotel "Y. M. C. A." So we say that the "Y" really means more to the Colored men and boys of America than possibly any other institution.

Pine Street Branch has served its purpose in St. Louis just as the "Y" has in Denver, Los Angeles, Indianapolis, Chicago, Columbia, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Atlantic City, New York City, Atlanta, Nashville, Louisville, Washington, Baltimore, Newport News. It is the desire of this Branch to ever continue "not to be ministered unto, but to minister" unselfishly to individuals, groups and organizations.

A REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR

A review of the past year's work of Pine Street Association shows strikingly how its service radiates throughout the community. For years the Association rendered its small, but effective service from the diminutive quarters on Lawton avenue. The entire staff consisted of three persons.

The outreach of this meagre force were

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Proposed Highlands Building To Be Second Building for Colored Youth in America

BISHOP RANSOM AT Y. M. C. A. SUNDAY

Bishop R. C. Ransom, of the A. M. E. Church will deliver the Sixth Anniversary Address at the "Y" Sunday, 23rd, 4:00 p. m.

The following five-minute addresses will be made: "The 'Y' as a Religious Agency in our community" by Dr. R. F. Abbott. "The Contribution of the 'Y' to the Business Men of St. Louis" by Mr. Jno. W. Hays. "The 'Y' and its Relation to the Educational Agencies in the Community" by Mr. M. J. Gilliam.

Special music will be rendered by Miss Myrtle A. Burgess, piano; Mr. Ethel Huffman, violin; and Miss Harriett I. Robinson of Alton, Ill., vocal. The public is invited to attend this service at the "Y."

BIBLE STUDY

Subject for Sunday—"What did Jesus Teach Concerning Social Reformation?" Led by Mr. E. L. Snyder. What are the social bands that should exist between man and man. Mark 12:31. Matt. 23:23. Matt. 12:7.

Last Sunday the lesson was led by Dr. Wm. F. Brown, which was very interesting. Practically everyone took part in the discussion. Many questions were asked. Messrs. C. C. Williams, A. Edwards, H. Stovall and Lee gave some wonderful ideas on the subject.

Mr. J. W. Hutt has been absent for several Sundays. We hope he will be present Sunday.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Forty Sunday meetings were conducted presenting a most splendid roster of speakers who brought to the assemblies both religious and educational messages. The result of which inspired hundreds to larger lives of usefulness and service. More than 6,300 attended these Sunday afternoon meetings.

Apart from the great forum in which men and women have sat Sunday after Sunday to be intellectually and spiritually inspired and where men out of their knowledge and experience have from the platform defined the constructive ways of life; this same service has afforded a wonderful Musical Lyceum where musicians have inspired many to aspire for accomplishment in their field of Art.

More than 800 have attended Bible Classes during the past year where most interesting topics of religious value have become a part of man's practical ways of living. More than 40 men have given volunteer service in the leadership of these classes. It is hoped that year after year even more men will become interested in the study of the Bible.

THE BUDGET DEPARTMENT

Pine Street is approaching another milestone. The past year has witnessed the most forward step in the Budget program of the Branch since its advent into the building on Pine Street.

In the past, under the old system of keeping accounts for the Branch, the money was banked through the Central Office. All expenditures and financial transactions were executed through said office, submitting a report of the same to the branch at the end of each month. In short, all of the bookkeeping was done by the Central Office.

Under the present administration, each branch of the St. Louis Association has full charge of the business and financial operations of its respective organization. Pine Street has taken on her share of this forward step on the same basis as the other branches in the city. We now have our own bank account, we

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THE PINE TORCH

Published by

Pine St. Branch of St. Louis Y. M. C. A.
2846 Pine Street
Every Friday

Summit 708

Bomont 703

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized January 11, 1923.

Entered as second class matter at the Post office at St. Louis, Mo., under Act March 3, 1879.

Subscription rates .. 25 cents per year

Editorials

"THE HOUSE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD"

We are living in a "house by the side of the road," where the race of men go by; men who are good, men who are bad, as good and as bad as can be. We do not sit in a scornful seat, nor hurl a cynic wand, but we live in a house by the side of the road and are a friend to man.

We never sleep from morning until night, from night until morning, the doors of the Pine Street Y. M. C. A. stand ajar, welcoming men of all vocations to come in and sup with us. We do not compose a charitable institution, designed to administer unto the poor and unfortunate, but whosoever comes unto us, we will in no wise cast out. Be he outcast or vagabond, we never overlook the fact that wrapped in the forsaken form of men is the image and likeness of God whom we serve.

While the city sleeps, there is a continuous flow of men with untutored minds, and illiterate and ambitious boys who have drifted from the remote parts of the South making adventurous searches for the land of Utopia, and on account of some unavoidable circumstances, met with misfortune and have not where to lay their heads. Even when they have been denied shelter from other sources, they turn to the Y. M. C. A. where they are given a warm bed for the night. At dawn they are given a bath, occasionally clean clothes and breakfast. Then we put forth efforts to find them work. If they are young boys who have strayed away from home unable to care for themselves, we keep them until they can be turned over to the Juvenile Court, where they are cared for until their guardians are located. Then they are returned to their homes. It is our desire to befriend every man who comes to us for rescue, and before he goes—acquaint him with Jesus Christ.

THE BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

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write our own checks, which are signed by our own Treasurer and Executive Secretary. A very comprehensive and exhaustive bookkeeping system has been installed to take care of the large volume of business in which the Association engages.

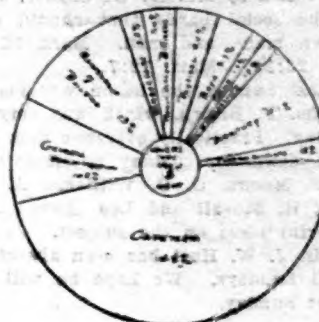
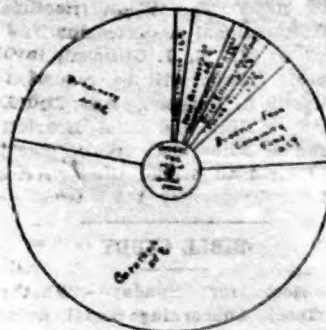
Pine Street did \$37,000.00 worth of business during the year 1924. Of this amount \$11,000.00 was contributed by the Community Fund to take care of our deficit, our income being only \$2 1-2 per cent of the necessary expenditures.

One very interesting development of our business—for a business it is—is that we are spending over \$10,000.00 per year with our own group. This of course will increase from time to time as we are presented agreeable propositions.

Our dormitory accommodates over eighty-five regular residents and an average of five transients daily, not to speak of the sixty Pullman Porters who make Pine Street their daily rendezvous.

In 1924, our Cafeteria served over 127,000 meals. Our help in this department of Pine Street vies with each other in their effort to show the patrons that the Pine Street spirit of service dominates even that apparently purely commercial operation of selling food. They believe that the customer is always right. Their motto is "the other fellow first."

The accompanying dollar chart pictures very concretely and accurately the avenues of income and the corresponding distribution of expenses for the whole branch.



MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

The Membership of the Y. M. C. A., Pine Street Branch, has made a wonderful growth in six years time. It has grown from just a handful of members, to a membership of 1,300—a wonderful growth. But when we stop to consider the size of St. Louis and the number of people here, we are forced to stop and stand in wonder.

There are more men and boys taking part in the Y. M. C. A. program today than ever before in the history of the Association. There are more people being reached through our membership Department by our members than ever before.

The Y. M. C. A. is a movement wherein we produce better men and boys. This is done thru our fourfold program which is put on by the Y. M. C. A. for its members. If you are a member, come in and take a part, if you are not join today and get into the program. If you are and have a friend who is not, see that he comes in today.

SOME HIGH POINTS FOR 1924

- 1 First Association to secure subscription for second building for our men and boys.
- 2 Secured largest subscription in history of our group for Association work—\$125,000.
- 3 More than 700 non-Association meetings held during year—attendance of 29,000.
- 4 32,365 transient men used dormitory.
- 5 Equiv. of 35,500 men used dormitory rooms.
- 6 30,075 porters slept here.
- 7 8,000 participated in our physical program classes.
- 8 6,200 persons attended Sunday afternoon Religious meetings.
- 9 53 boys made Christian decisions—46 of these became church members.
- 10 800 men attended Bible classes.
- 11 500 men found an opportunity for volunteer service through Association.
- 12 95 boys spent 10 days in Camp.
- 13 100 boys over 14 years of age spent 2 days in Christian fellowship.
- 14 402 boys are in the membership.
- 15 3 boys entered Association secretaryship.
- 16 5 others declare their intention to do so.
- 17 163 boys belong to the "Y" extension in Ellendaleville.
- 18 6,500 boys of Ellendaleville participated in athletic programs.
- 19 127,000 meals were served in the Cafeteria.

PHYSICAL DEPARTMENT

The Physical Committee of Pine St. in 1923 formed and submitted to the Board of Managers a five year policy. This Committee composed of four men who have given most of their lives to physical work embodied in this policy a vision from their experience and knowledge of our local situation.

This year we find that some phases of the work we have accomplished what this group of able men had given us five years to attain. The program of winter activities includes every available minute in the gymnasium from 12:00 noon until 10:30 p. m. There is a noon men's class daily with average attendance of 14, afternoon men's class, Tuesday and Thursday average attendance 9, night men's classes every night average attendance 16. We proudly boast of these classes serving the largest number of men in the history of our department. The same condition is true in the classes of the Boys' Department. 295 boys are enrolled in the boys classes each class having two gym periods and one swimming period a week. This large group of boys is divided according to age into three classes. The smaller boys (Midgets) average attendance is 30; Juniors 42 and Seniors the oldest boy group average attendance 18. A unique program of gymnastic work, recreative games, swimming and league and outside competition has been offered our boy membership and the result has been a joyful, happy healthy boy eager to come into the "Y" and into the gym every time the door is opened. We have two special groups, the gym team and swimming team. They are given special advance instructions and upon request have gone out into the community and given very creditable exhibitions. The work with our boy group is carried on effectively and efficiently by the help of our gym leaders corps.

This group of 10 boys were given a two week intensive course in leadership last September and they met regularly each week perfected themselves in the various phases of the work. The service of these leaders has been a great help to the department and they are personally benefited by the experience.

The work of a physical department is oftentimes erroneously judged by the caliber of the teams that represent it in the various games. There has been no desire on the part of those in charge to build strong representative teams. The league idea in which every man get a chance to play has been our policy. We have promoted throughout the winter four leagues. The noonday volley ball, (four teams) the Senior Basket Ball (5

PINE STREET Y. M. C. A. LEAGUES

Noonday Volley Ball

	W	L	Pct.
Pathfinders	7	2	777
Superiors	7	2	777
Invincibles	2	7	222
Leaders	2	7	222

Seniors Basket Ball League

K. R. T.	8	0	1000
Scullins	4	4	500
C. R. T.	4	4	500
Cosmopolitan	3	5	375
Black Swans	1	7	125

Junior Basket Ball League

Cubs	10	5	670
Buffaloes	8	7	526
Panthers	7	3	469
Wild Cats	5	10	526

Elleardsville Pioneer League

Superiors	8	7	578
Peerless	8	8	500
Excelsiors	8	8	500
Triangles	7	9	454

Games Saturday, March 21st

10:30—Midget Indoor Baseball League

12:00—Noonday Volley Ball League

Superiors vs Panthers

Invincibles vs Leaders

2:45—E. Y. C. Pioneer League

4:00—E. Y. C. vs Bond Ave. "Y" Juniors

6:30—Junior Basket Ball League

Panthers vs Cubs

Buffaloes vs Wild Cats

(teams), Junior basket ball (4 teams) and Midget indoor base ball league (3 teams). These games have offered friendly competition throughout the season and have kept up the enthusiasm of all involved.

Out of the large group of players we are justly proud of two groups that have represented us on various occasions. The varsity volley ball team won the mid-western volley ball championship and trophy in Indianapolis last November and the K. R. T. Basket Ball Team has distinguished itself as the local champion. They have not been defeated in the league games and have won six out of seven outside games.

To summarize the work of the Physical Department of the past year, we have served the largest number of young men and boys in our history and we feel that the contact in the gym has made this large group healthier and better citizens. We ask the continued support of all who are enrolled with us and invite each member to pick out the class that suits his convenience and enjoy what is the testimony of all, a good time in the gym.

ELLEARDSVILLE Y. M. C. A. CLUB FOR BOYS EXTENSION OF PINE STREET BRANCH

As we celebrate our Sixth Anniversary we point with pride to the achievements of the Elleardsville Y. M. C. A. Club for boys. For the year of 1924-25, the largest and most successful program in its history, was put over.

With Christian citizenship as our aim and with the fourfold development idea we pressed forward to our accomplishments.

Three Organizations for Boys

(1) "Y" Trail Rangers, Ages 10 to 12, 51 members.

(2) Pioneers, Ages 13 to 15, 79 members.

(3) Boy Scouts, Ages 12 to 15, 29 members.

(All using standard Bible Courses)

Bible Class attendance 2,008.

Educational Class attendance 1,927.

Social Features

Keeping in line with the other activities of the year, this phase of the program held its own. Listed below are the functions and their attendance:

(a) Mother and Son Banquet at St. James A. M. E. Church, 115 mothers and sons attending.

(b) Fall Opening Banquet, St. James A. M. E. Church, 110 boys attended.

(c) Annual Halloween Party at the Club, 87 boys attended.

(d) Apple Harvest Party at the Club, 75 boys attended.

(e) Mother and Son Xmas Celebration at Antioch Baptist Church, 117 mothers and sons attended.

(f) Our weekly movie and stunt program on Friday nights entertained 5,125 boys.

Our Anniversary Program, February 27, 1925 at Peru College, which exhibited our work, drew an interested audience of 850.

5, 875 boys attended our Social affairs.

Camps and Hikes

The one outstanding achievement of our 1924 program was the taking of 52 boys, 5 leaders, 3 directors and a chef to Camp River Cliff (Bourbon, Mo.) in the foot hills of the beautiful Ozarks to enjoy God's great out-of-doors for ten days. This was a most wonderful accomplishment, for Camp River Cliff is one of the finest Camps in America for Colored boys.

137 boys were taken on hikes to near-by points. 37 boys spent two nights at Imperial, Mo.

HONOR ROLL Week of March 9th

Midgets: Roscoe Ridley, Rollie Wells, Milton Moore, Walter Bingham, Burleson English, Dudley Brown, Julius Buckner, Theophilus Shelton, William McCall, Theodore Brime, Bonna Hodges and Jerome Brown.

Juniors: Robert Mack, V. Colmar, Wade Norwood, Eddie Coburn, J. B. Jones and Preston Davis.

Seniors: Artie Simms, Joseph Thomas, Bluma Walker, Chas. Crawford and Otto Waters.

Leaders: George Foster, Lester Pierson, Clifton Horn, Alvin Goida and Robert Williams.

BOYS WORK SHOWS SPLENDID GROWTH

During the past year the Boys work of the Pine Street Branch has advanced in every department. Outstanding among the achievements of the Boys' Division, since the last birthday of the Branch were: (1) a carefully graded and organized program for boys in the building membership (2) a larger membership than ever before (3) the acquisition and promotion of Camp River Cliff in the Ozarks (4) 52 boys accepted Jesus Christ and joined the church (5) promotion of Fourth Annual City-wide Older Boys' Conference and (6) graduating two boys into training for definite Christian service.

Camp River Cliff

Our Boys' Division is very proud of the acquisition of Camp River Cliff in the Ozarks. This piece of Camp property is worth more than \$10,000 and is the finest camp in the world for the exclusive use of Colored boys. The Camp site comprises 65 acres of ideal camping ground nestling among the beautiful foothills of the Ozark Mountains near Bourbon, Mo. It is thoroughly equipped in every department.

Ninety-five boys were the happy guests at Camp River Cliff last August but the interest which the enthusiasm of those satisfied campers has created among the boys of St. Louis will make four camp periods necessary next Summer. The first period opens July 19th.

Christian Decisions

As a result of our Bible study, religious emphasis, Sunday afternoon meetings for boys and Older Boys' Conference, fifty-one of the few members who were not already converted, accepted Jesus Christ. This is one of the most important tests of our work with boys and we are pleased to report this success.

Membership

At the close of 1933, our total boys building membership was 285. Today that number has grown to 402. This increase is more noticeable when it is considered that it represents the activities of the boys themselves in winning members. In a recent campaign boys themselves won 150 members within 10 days.

Results

Howard O. Lindsey joined the Pine Street Y. M. C. A. when it was starting out to serve boys and he was starting out on a "mission of mischief" but they became friends and now, after 5 years of this friendship, Howard, having worked up to President of the Boys' Executive Council, became an employee of the "Y" and now is attending Chicago Y. M. C. A. College preparing, as he states it, "for a life of Christian service to boys like I was" and will graduate as a Y. M. C. A. Boys' Work Secretary.

Fred Young joined the "Y" as an employed boy of seventeen, but he found friendship and service in the "Y" so wholesome and helpful that after a year as President of the Boys' Executive Council, he accepted the "Y. M. C. A. work" for the purpose of giving his life in Christian service. Eight other older boy members plan to follow in their steps. Is this not the "PROOF OF THE PUDDING?"

A REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR

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sufficient to convince the people of St. Louis of the possibilities attainable thru a standard Association program. In 1919 the ambitions of people looking in that direction, were made possible of realization. On the 22nd of March of that year, the work, now known as the Pine Street Branch was inaugurated.

The work at Pine Street began by taking leadership in some phases of the Association work. When the building was dedicated, the entire amount of money subscribed by the Colored people, was already in hand. This still stands as the only instance of that sort of performance among our Association. In the years that have followed, Pine Street has endeavored always to point the way to larger accomplishment along some phase of the Association's program. The service that is being rendered to the Pullman Porters coming into St. Louis is without parallel in any other Association field. The quality and quantity of Cafeteria business carried on by this Branch, far exceeds that of any other Branch in the country. It also has pointed the way to special Club work with industrial

groups. All Association buildings throughout the country should be pervaded by an atmosphere of cordiality, welcome and (maradriers). These have always been attributes of the Pine Street work. A final piece of pioneering work in the Association field is that exemplified by the extension in Ellettsville. Here, again, Pine Street has pointed the way for brotherhood. Finally, the work in St. Louis is the first to make its case for a second modern building for work with Colored men and boys. In this effort St. Louis has again set the pace. The subscription of \$125,000 by Colored people sets a record worthy of emulation by any other city in the United States.

The most heartening experience in the life of Pine Street is the privilege accorded it to serve as a rendezvous for practically all phases of Negro life in St. Louis. It has had the distinction of being the place where numerous city-wide activities have had their birth. The Negro Business Men's Association was developed and still meets regularly twice a month in the building. Such interdenominational activities as the churches have so far brought into being have been organized and set up under this roof. The Interdenominational Sunday School Teachers' Training classes were held here, the Federation of Negro churches of St. Louis and vicinity, was organized here and all of its meetings have been here. Various business enterprises use the Association building continuously. The Association is privileged to serve many of the social and educational groups, such as the College Fraternities, alumni associations, etc., industrial groups, such as the Pullman Porters, Benevolent Organization, the Pullman Porters Safety Organizations, the Pullman Shop meetings, the Missouri Pacific Railway men, the Bank Messengers of St. Louis, the Commonwealth Steel Company and others, make constant use of the building for practically all of their group activities.

BRICK BATS AND BOUQUETS

Geo. Bell sure needs to go to Camp this year. He asked if green snakes were as dangerous as "ripe" ones.

The longer you wait to fall for 'em, the harder you fall. Poor Blackshear — and he was such a good boy too.

Sam Phillips heard somebody say—if you want a thing done well, do it your self". So he cut his own hair.

"And this is the end of my tail," said the cat as she backed into the lawnmower.